



# PRESS RELEASE

## U.S. EMBASSY RANGOON

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### **2012 Trafficking in Persons Report: Burma Upgraded to Tier 2 Watch List**

June 19, 2012

On Tuesday, June 19, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton unveiled the 2012 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, in which Burma received an upgrade to Tier 2 Watch List. This upgrade recognizes that the Government of Burma is “making significant efforts” for the elimination of trafficking. Steps that the government took to combat trafficking include: continuing significant efforts to address cross-border sex trafficking of women and girls; inaugurating a national hotline to respond to public complaints of trafficking; repealing antiquated laws that sanctioned use of forced labor; enacting new legislation that clearly prohibits forced labor; and embarking on an ambitious new plan of action with the International Labor Organization (ILO) to eradicate forced labor by 2015. Nevertheless, forced labor of civilians and the recruitment of child soldiers by both military officials and private entities remain serious problems.

As required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), the TIP Report assesses governments around the world on their efforts to combat modern slavery. This year's Report, the 12th such annual report, includes narratives of 186 countries and territories, including Burma.

As human trafficking - modern slavery - adversely affects all countries, including the United States, the U.S. government hopes the TIP Report will highlight patterns and trends around the world in order to confront it more effectively.

To view this year's Trafficking in Persons Report, please visit <http://www.state.gov/j/tip>. A Burmese translation of the report will be posted on the U.S. Embassy in Rangoon's website within the next month.